

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for adding a secondary information signal to a runlength-limited code sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) detecting a polarity of a runlength at a first
5 predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence; and
- b) setting a parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited ~~coding~~ code sequence based on said detected runlength polarity so as to obtain a predetermined polarity of a runlength at a second predetermined position of said
10 runlength-limited code sequence, said parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited ~~coding~~ code sequence preceding said second predetermined position;
- c) wherein said predetermined polarity corresponds to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for extracting a secondary information signal from a runlength-limited code sequence, said secondary information being incorporated in said runlength-limited code sequence as a polarity of a runlength at a predetermined
5 position of said runlength-limited code sequence, and said polarity being dependent on a parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in

the ~~run-length-runlength-limited coding code~~ sequence based on a polarity of the ~~run-length-runlength-limited code~~ sequence at a further predetermined position preceding said predetermined position, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) extracting a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence; and
- b) detecting a polarity of said extracted runlength;
- c) wherein said ~~detecting~~ detected polarity

15 corresponds to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said secondary information signal is ~~a~~-hidden channel information for copy protection of a record carrier.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said extraction step is performed by using a detected bit stream of said runlength-limited code sequence.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first predetermined position corresponds to a predetermined runlength of a frame synchronization word, and said second predetermined position corresponds to a predetermined runlength of a S0 sync-pattern of a subcode block in CD, following

said frame synchronization word in the first frame of a ~~subCode~~
subcode block.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

switching off a DC-control function of said set merging
bit pattern.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for adding a secondary
information to a runlength-limited code sequence, said device
comprising:

- a) detecting means for detecting a polarity of a
5 runlength at a first predetermined position of said runlength-
limited code sequence;
- b) setting means for setting a parameter reflecting
the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited ~~coding~~code sequence
based on said detected runlength polarity so as to obtain a
10 predetermined polarity of a runlength at a second predetermined
position of said runlength-limited code sequence, said parameter
reflecting the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited ~~coding~~
code sequence preceding said second predetermined position;
- c) wherein said predetermined polarity corresponds
15 to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

8. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting a secondary information signal from a runlength-limited code sequence, said secondary information being incorporated in said runlength-limited code sequence as a polarity of a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence, and said polarity being dependent on a parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the ~~run-length-runlength-limited coding-code sequence~~ based on a polarity of the ~~run-length-runlength-limited code sequence~~ at a further predetermined position preceding said predetermined position, said device comprising:
- a) extracting means for extracting a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength limited code sequence; and
 - b) detecting means for detecting a polarity of said extracted runlength;
 - 15 c) wherein said detected polarity corresponds to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

9. (Currently Amended) A record carrier having stored therein a runlength-limited code sequence and a secondary information signal, said record carrier comprising a hidden channel for storing said secondary information signal as a polarity of a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence, said polarity being dependent on a parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the ~~run-length-runlength-limited coding-code sequence~~

based on a polarity of the ~~run-length~~runlength-limited code
sequence at a further predetermined position preceding said
10 predetermined position.

10. (Previously Presented) The record carrier as claimed in claim
9, wherein said record carrier is an optical record carrier.

11. (Cancelled).